

# A Catalogue of the Birds in the Collection of the Bombay Natural History Society—10

## Cuculidae

BY

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

[Continued from Vol. 68 (2): 338]

This part deals with 435 specimens of 36 species and subspecies up to No. 605 in IND. HANDBOOK (3: 246) up to Reg. No. 23591. Mr. S. A. Hussain assisted with measurements and other work.

### 569 *Clamator coromandus* (Linnaeus) (Coromandel—Pondicherry) Redwinged Crested Cuckoo 4 : 170

9 : 4 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀ (2 imm.) 1 o ?

1 Savantwadi, Maharashtra ; 1 Point Calimere, Tamil Nadu ; 1 Darjeeling ;  
1 Goalpara, 2 Dibrugarh, 2 Assam ; 1 *Monywa*, *Burma*.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
4 ♂♂	158, 159, 161, 166	20, 21, 22, 24	25, 26(2), 27	218, 222, 226, 235
2 ♀♀	158, 171*	23, 24	26, 27*	236, 260*
(IH ♂♀)	157-166	c. 24-25	c. 27-28	231-245)

The female from Point Calimere\* is the largest, the measurements of the wing and tail exceeding the limits in the FAUNA. It also differs from all the others in having dark instead of pale coloured legs and feet.

### 570 *Clamator jacobinus serratus* (Sparrrman) (Cape Peninsula, Cape Province, S. Africa) Pied Crested Cuckoo 4 : 167

30 : 11 ♂♂ 10 ♀♀ (1 juv.) 9 o ? (1 juv.)

1 Baghat State, 1 Chili, Patiala State, 1 Simla, 1 NW. Himalayas (H.P.) ;  
1 Karachi ; 1 Bhujia Fort, Kutch, 1 Bhavnagar, 1 Bodeli, Baroda, 1 Gir Forest ;  
1 Mandu, Dhar State, C.I. ; 1 Bassein, Thana, 8 Bombay City ; 1 Talewadi,  
Belgaum ; 1 Vizagapatam ; 4 Anark, Darbhanga, Bihar ; 1 Meerut, 1 Cawnpur,  
1 Almora, 1 Nainital, Kumaon, U.P. ; 1 Karung ?.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
11 ♂♂	145-152 av. 149 (IH 146-155)	18-20 (20-22)	25-27 av. 25·8 (27-28)	163-179 av. 168·4 (IH 158-176)
9 ♀♀	142-150 av. 146 (IH 144-151)	18-20 (20-22)	24-28 av. 26 (27-28)	149-172 av. 164 (IH 156-169)

Two females from Darbhanga, Bihar, and Cawnpur, U.P., have their wings 142 and 143 mm. All the specimens, including the juveniles, have been collected between ? April in Gir and 8 November (a juvenile on 11 November) in Bombay. A male from Talewadi, Belgaum (wing 147) is the southernmost specimen. IND. HANDBOOK (3 : 195) putatively accepts this as wintering in Africa south of the Sahara, but wing measurements of 20 ♂♂ from Africa and Arabia quoted from Ticehurst (loc. cit., p. 197) 147-162 (once 167) apparently refer to a different race. The dates of the specimens available give no indication of a movement in any direction. Can any significance be attached to Inglis's statement that at Jalpaiguri, E. Bengal, it is common in the plains from April to November, while it is said to arrive at the end of May in almost every other place ?

571 **Clamator jacobinus jacobinus** (Boddaert) (Coromandel Coast)  
Ceylon Pied Crested Cuckoo 4 : 169

4 : 1 ♂ juv. 3 ♀♀

1 Mercara, Coorg ; 1 Kurumbapatti, 1 Tirthamalai, Salem Dist. ; 1 Seshachalam Hills, S. Cuddapah.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
1 ♂ juv.	140	18	26	153
3 ♀♀	142(2), 143	18, 19, 20	25, 27(2)	155, 160, 166
	(1H ♂♀ 136-144	—	—	147-163)

This race is generally accepted as the resident southern population though IND. HANDBOOK (3 : 197) adds that 'its rainy season migrations and dispersal are restricted within our limits'. It is significant that the specimens available are dated 20 April (breeding), 23 June, 13 September and 26 October (juvenile), while the Eastern Ghats Ornithological Survey, which was continuously in the field between 8 April 1929 and 15 May 1930, obtained 9 specimens, but all between 20 April and 8 November. There are admittedly a few records outside this period (Sálim Ali, Cape Comorin, 7 April, Seringapatam, Mysore, 8 December; Pillay, Trivandrum, 28 February) but a closer inquiry is required for both races.

572 **Cuculus sparveroides sparveroides** Vigors (Himalayas) Large  
Hawk-Cuckoo 4 : 146

8 : 5 ♂♂ (2 juv.) 2 ♀♀ 1 o ?

1 Koti State, 1 Simla ; 2 Kurseong, 1 Darjeeling ; 1 Temi, 1 Richingpong, Sikkim ; 1 Cachar.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
♂♂ (2 juv.)	222, 226, 229, 237(2)	29(2), 29(2)	25, 26(3), 27	193, 198(2), 204
♀♀	224, 234	29, 30	27, 28	195, 205
o ?	236	29	27	216
	(1H ♂♀ 213-236	28-30	25-27	175-220)

Two ♂♂ (both February), which differ from the others in lacking the rufous patch on the upper breast and in having slight traces of light rufous barring on the upper parts, are presumably young of the year.

The key in IND. HANDBOOK (3 : 198) requires a tail over 197 mm. while later (p. 200) it is measured as 175-220.

573 *Cuculus varius varius* Vahl (Tranquebar) Common Hawk-Cuckoo  
4 : 148

23 : 15 ♂♂ (3 juv.) 8 ♀♀ (3 juv.)

1 Baghat State, 1 Ambala, 2 Delhi; 1 Gwalior; 1 Gondia, 1 Kankar, C.P.; 3 Bombay; 1 Karwar; 1 Peermade, 1 Rajampara, Panthalam Hills, Kerala; 1 Nallamalai, S. Kurnool; 1 Sankrametta, Vizagapatam; 1 Bhaspur, Devkand, Orissa; 3 Darbhanga, 1 Bagha, 1 Tirhut; 1 Bankulwa, Morang, Nepal; 1 Goalpara, Assam.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
8 ♂♂	193-202 av. 197·5 (IH 193-213)	20-23 av. 21·3 —	22-24 av. 23·2 21-23	160-179 av. 168 157-188)
5 ♀♀	183-196 av. 191 (IH 192-207)	20-22 av. 20·8 —	23-24 av. 23·8 23-26	157-169 av. 163·5. 156-180)

It will be noticed that the measurements are smaller than indicated in IND. HANDBOOK. The young have bold streaks on the breast and the upper parts are washed with rufous indicating an indistinct barring.

574 *Cuculus varius ciceliae* (Phillips) (Caledonia Estate, 4000 ft. Lindula, Dimbula, Ceylon) Ceylon Hawk-Cuckoo  
nil.

575 *Cuculus fugax nasicolor* Blyth (Nepal) Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo  
4 : 150  
nil.

576 *Cuculus micropterus micropterus* Gould (Himalayas) Indian Cuckoo  
4 : 144

11 : 8 ♂♂ 3 ♀♀ (1 juv., 1 pull.)

1 Bhaji State, 2 Simla; 1 Powai, Bombay; 1 Rajampara, Panthalam Hills, Kerala; 1 Puttocku, N. Arcot; 1 Monna Khal, U.P.; 1 Ramshai, Jalpaiguri, Bengal; 1 Hathiban, Nepal; 1 Duars, Assam; 1 Mithakhary, S. Andamans.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
7 ♂♂	198-210 av. 203·4	24-26 av. 25	18-20 av. 19·5	149-166 av. 155
2 ♀♀	190, 209 [IH ♂♀ 190-207]	22 (22-24)	21(2) 20-21	144, 159 142-161]

The females do not differ from the males in colour.

The black band almost at the end of the tail and the white edge to wings are good characters for the identification of this species, but the heavy bill appears to be a reliable, and sometimes necessary, supplementary character to separate it from *C. canorus*, specimens of which

were mixed up with this species. All the specimens were obtained between 17 March (breeding ♀, Rajampara) and 26th July (juvenile), but this may be due to its silence and unobtrusiveness at other seasons. The pullet was obtained in the Duars on 31st May, while the ♀ from Rajampara, Kerala (17 March) held soft eggs and a distended oviduct. One male (Simla 26 May) marked adult has a slight trace of rufous barring on the upper back.

Sp. No. 23173 from the Andamans differs from the others in having white tips to the wing coverts, forming two bars across the wing, in which respect it resembles the juvenile and may represent a subadult plumage.

**577 *Cuculus canorus subtelephonus* Zarudny (Turkestan) Asiatic Cuckoo**

8 : 4 ♂♂ (1 juv.) 2 ♀♀ (1 hepatic, 1 juv.) 2 o ? (juv.)

1 *Felujah*, R. *Euphrates*, 1 *Shaiba*, 1 *Shatt-el-Adhain*, R. *Tigris*; 2 *Bahm-e-Shur*, 2 *Mishun*, *Persian Gulf*; 1 *Shiraz*, *Persia*.

The subspecies of *C. canorus* are extremely difficult to tell apart. The three adult males are paler above than the others, but the 4 juveniles vary among themselves, and are only separated on geographical grounds.

Specimen No. 20925 a hepatic female (adult, 23rd March) from Bahm-e-Shur, wing 201, tail 147, is rufous all over and has a foxy chestnut tail with a very distinct black spot/bar preceding the small white tips, a character shared only with two rufous juveniles under the next subspecies (q.v.). No. 20929 a juvenile male (which was caught and died in captivity) has its primaries only a little longer than the secondaries, a rufous wash on the upper parts, and a large white patch on the nape.

The measurements are under serial 579.

**578 *Cuculus canorus canorus* Linnaeus (Sweden) Cuckoo 4 : 135**

29 : 14 ♂♂ (7 juv.) 10 ♀♀ (3 juv.) 5 o ? (juv.)

3 Chitral; 2 Kashmir; 1 Keonthal State, 1 Bhagat State, 2 Mashobra, 8 Simla, H.P.; 1 Dharamshala\*, 1 Patiala; 1 Bikanir; 1 Bhuj Fort, Kutch; 1 Dhari, Kathiawar; 1 Rewas, Kolaba; 4 Baghownie, Tirhut, Bihar; 1 Nannakhat; 1 Yumaniti, Garhwal. \*missing.

The rufous tinge on the upper breast referred to and illustrated in BRIT. HANDBOOK (II, p. 300 and Plate 56) is very poorly exhibited and the females can hardly be picked out from the males.

Juvenile female No. 18706 (wing 177, tail 132) from Simla (5th May, 'Skull incompletely ossified') is strongly rufous and has bold bands across the breast, broader than in any of the others, including *bakeri*, a character approached by No. 18707 (Simla o ? juvenile). Both these resemble the hepatic female of *subtelephonus* in having a black spot/bar before the end of the tail.



Most of the juveniles have varying degrees of rufous all over.  
Measurements are under serial 579.

579 *Cuculus canorus bakeri* Hartert (Shillong, Assam) Khasi Hills  
Cuckoo 4 : 149

16 : 11 ♂♂ (2 pull., 2 juv.) 3 ♀♀ 2 o ?

1 Yusmarg, Kashmir; 1 Bhandardara, Ahmednagar; 1 Lamasinghi, Vizagapatam Dist.; 1 Yoshimathi, 1 Chamoli, Garhwal; 1 Sipuri, 1 Bankulwa, Morang, Nepal; 3 Darjeeling, 1 Longview T.E., Punkabari, 2 Goalpara, 2 Khasi Hills, Shillong, Assam; 1 *Maymyo, Burma*.

The nine adults are slightly darker above than those listed as nominate *canorus* and there is no other character which would appear to justify this separation. Specimen No. 20627 from Yusmarg, Kashmir, is distinctly greyer than all the others and D. Goodwin at the British Museum, to whom it was sent in 1968, suggested that it may be *bakeri*. If this is correct and a constant character, the others would all be nominate *canorus*. All the specimens listed under 578 and 579 were obtained between 19th March (Nepal) and 20th October (Amreli, Gujarat) which does not support the statement in IND. HAND. (3 : 209) that they are dispersed throughout Peninsular India 'between early August and mid-March'.

If these identifications are correct the specimen from Lamasinghi, Eastern Ghats, is the second record of this race from Peninsular India, the first being from Ahmednagar.

The specimens measure as follows :—

MALES	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
3 ad. <i>subtelephonus</i>	211, 214, 233 (IH 204-220)	(1) 20	21(2), 22	163, 171, 182
1 juv. „	mltg.	15	19	155
7 ad. nominate <i>canorus</i>	210-224 av. 219.5 (IH ♂♂ 209-243)	19-21 av. 20 (20-22)	20-22 av. 21 c. 21-24	160-173 av. 167 152-183)
7 juv. do. „	177-213 av. 200	18-23	18-24 av. 21	145-178 av. 159.5
7 ad. <i>bakeri</i>	208-234 av. 225	19-20 av. 19.3	20-23 av. 21	158-184 av. 174
2. juv. „	193, 215 (IH ♂♀ 208-240)	19, 20 —	21, 22 —	156, 162 —)
FEMALES				
2 juv. <i>subtelephonus</i>	201, 216 (IH ♀♀ 184-216)	19(2) —	21(2) —	147-158 —)
7 ad. nominate <i>canorus</i>	193-225 av. 212 [IH ♀♀ 213-230]	18-20 av. 19 (20-22)	19-23 av. 21 23-24	155-170 av. 163 157-170]
2 juv. do.	177, 205	19(1)	22(2)	132(1)
3 ad. <i>bakeri</i>	198, 217(2) (IH ♂♀ 208-240)	18, 19 —	18, 20 —	156, 157, 165 —)

580 *Cuculus saturatus saturatus* Blyth (Nepal) Himalayan Cuckoo  
4 : 140

12 : 6 ♂♂ 5 ♀♀ (1 juv., 2 pull.) 1 o ? (pull.)

1 Koti State, 4 Simla ; 1 Deoband ?, 1 Kanaur ?, 2 Tumseong Tea Estate, Darjeeling ; 1 Khasi Hills, Assam ; 1 S. Andamans (8th March 1969).

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
6 ♂♂	188-194 av. 191	—	—	150-163 av. 157
3 ♀♀	176, 179, 186	—	—	140, 144, 146
(IH ♂♀ 179-192)	—	—	—	144-159)

The two females from Kanaur(?) and S. Andamans (Nos. 10622 and 23180) have some rufous on the breast. The former (juvenile ?) also has traces of rufous barring on the hind neck, upper wing coverts and the tail.

581 *Cuculus poliocephalus poliocephalus* Latham (India) Small Cuckoo  
4 : 12

18 : 13 ♂♂ (4 juv.) 4 ♀♀ (2 juv.) 1 o ?

1 Bagi, Bashar State, Punjab ; 1 Khandala, 2 Mercara, Coorg ; 1 Dakuri, Danpur, U.P. ; 1 Chalna-Khel, Nepal ; 5 Darjeeling ; 2 Sikkim ; 1 Shillong, 2 Dibrugarh, Assam ; 2 no data.

	Wing	Tail
10 ♂♂	150-173 av. 157	119-138 av. 128
2 hepatic ♂♂	145, 151	108, 124
2 ♀♀	150, 168	125, 119
3 hepatic ♀♀	144, 147, 148	123(2), 124
(IH ♂♀ 142-162, once 171)		(IH 126-137)

All 5 hepatic birds (3 of which are marked *Cacomantis merulinus* by Stuart Baker !) have the upper breast and chin barred and I wonder if this is not a sub-adult phase, a suggestion supported by the measurements above. No. 10637 (Sikkim), which is the larger of the two hepatic males, has a rich chestnut unbarred head, the rest of the plumage being grey as in the adult and with almost no rufous elsewhere. No. 10638 (Mercara 10 Oct. 1918, wing 143, tail 120) shows no rufous but is marked as a juvenile of this species by Whistler.

After these notes were completed, Dr. D. R. Wells of the School of Biological Sciences, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, passed through Bombay. He has been making a special study of *Cuculus saturatus* in south-east Asia, and has examined a large number of specimens at the British Museum (Natural History) and in the Natural History Collections at Leyden. He thought that specimens No. 10627 (♀ Sikkim) and 12636 (♂ no data), wings 171 and 172, which have their bills heavier than in other *poliocephalus*, are nominate *saturatus*.

Both however have their tails 130 mm. which is closer to *poliocephalus* and, pending publication of Dr. Wells's paper on this subject, I am making no alterations in my groupings.

582 *Cacomantis sonneratii sonneratii* (Latham) (India) Indian Bay-banded Cuckoo 4 : 157

13 : 7 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀ 2 o ?

1 Galkund, 1 Pandwa, Surat Dangs ; 1 Andheri, Bombay, 1 Ratnagiri, Maharashtra ; 1 Santgal, 1 Bakemani, 1 North Kanara ; 2 Darba, Bastar ; 1 Kutri, Daspalla, Orissa ; 1 Kumaon, U.P. ; 1 North Shan States, 1 Hsipau, Burma.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
7 ♂♂	121-122 av. 123	19-21 av. 20	16-18 av. 17.2	110-121 av. 114.5
4 ♀♀	121, 122, 123, 125	20-21	17(2), 18(2)	112, 114, 116, 125
	(1H ♂♂ 116-128)	from skull	17-18	112-118)
		23-26		

583 *Cacomantis sonneratii waiti* (Baker) (Ceylon) Ceylon Baybanded Cuckoo 4 : 159

nil.

584 *Cacomantis merulinus passerinus* (Vahl) (Tranquebar) Indian Plaintive Cuckoo 4 : 159

21 : 15 ♂♂ (1\*pull.) 2 ♀♀ (1 rufous) 4 o ? (1 pull., 1 rufous)

1 Keonthal, Simla ; 1 Kumaon ; 1\* Bhyander, 1 Salsette ; 3 Karwar, 1 Dharwar, 1 Cassimode (?), 2 Kanara, 1 Talguppa, Sagar, Mysore, 1 Palni Foothills ; 1 Pt. Calimere ; 1 Seshachalam Hills ; 1 Lamasinghi, 2500', Vizagapatam Dist. ; 1 Hyderabad ; 1 Nilgiri, 1 Chilka Lake, Orissa ; 1 Sikkim.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
14 ♂♂	112-122 av. 116	17-20 av. 18	16-19 av. 17.6	104-118 av. 109
2 ♀♀	113, 114	17, 17	17, 18	104, 109
	(1H ♂♂ 113-120)	—	17-19	105-115)

The 14 sexed grey specimens are males. Two hepatic specimens are superficially not unlike the females of *querulus*, but differ in having no bars on the similarly rufous tails and being much brighter chestnut above ; one is sexed as a female, indicating one of the dimorphic forms mentioned by Whistler (AVIFAUNAL SURVEY OF CEYLON, p. 213). The other ♀ (No. 23272, Pt. Calimere, 26 Sept.) is like the male except that it has traces of rufous on the cheeks and upper breast, suggesting that it has moulted from a hepatic plumage. Two from Kanara (1 ♂ 1 o ?) are darker and show no white on the lower belly.

One pullet in (now) much-faded grey plumage, collected at Hyderabad, Deccan, bears the following note over Stuart Baker's signature: 'The extraordinary melanistic juvenile plumage sometimes found in this (*querulus* ? HA) and *merulinus*. Bird brought up from egg of red type in nest of *P. socialis*'. This only confirms that the earlier records of *querulus* (q.v.) have to be treated with circumspection. The second pullet is smaller, and resembles the adult in plumage except for faint traces of white (barring ?) all over the underparts.

♂ No. 10675 collected in Kanara on 7 May 1891 differs from the others in lacking both the white patch on the edge of the wing and all

traces of white on the undertail coverts and tail. The underparts are also dark and not greyish.

585 *Cacomantis merulinus querulus* Heine (Lower Bengal, Assam, Sylhet, Burma, and China) Burmese Plaintive Cuckoo 4 : 156

10 : 4 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀ 2 o ?

1 S. Sylhet, 3 Cachar, 1 2600' Moirang, Manipur, Assam ; 1 Taunggyi, 1 Paunkaung, 3 Prome Dist., Burma.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
5 ad. ♂♀	108-117 av. 113·4	17	16-19 av. 17·4	113-115 av. 114·2
5 juv. ♂♀	111-118 av. 113	16-18	17-18 av. 17·8	100-122
(1H ♂♀	109-119	15-17	17-18	112-125)

Of the 5 in adult plumage two (1 ♂ 1 o ? Nos. 10681 & 10677) have their underparts paler rufous and also show slight traces of the juvenile barring on the wing coverts in one and on the head in the other. The three with darker underparts are 2 ♂♂, 1 o ?.

♂ Sp. No. 21718 from Moirang is in an intermediate plumage, showing irregular traces of rufous barring and the paler rufous on the underparts.

With the material available it is not possible to comment upon the races and plumages except to draw attention to the following :—

(a) All included under *querulus* are east/south of the Brahmaputra and I have seen no evidence of the re-examination of the specimen from Cumbum, A.P., said to be of this form (Biswas 1951, *Ibis* p. 597).

(b) The single ♂ and 3 ♀♀ in rufous plumage have their tails barred with black, which is quite different from those of hepatic *passerinus*, in which the brighter chestnut of the tail (as also the upper parts) is not marked by cross-bars but only has a more or less straight black line along the central shaft.

(c) In all reference to earlier literature it must be remembered that Stuart Baker collected 3 hepatic specimens of *C. poliocephalus* one of which (with no data regarding time or place) is particularly marked 'Rufousbellied Cuckoo, *Cacomantis merulinus* ♀. The bird was caught by a noose round the neck in the act of placing its egg in the nest of *Suya khasiana*. This skin though rough should be kept—ECSB'. Curiously 3 other adult *querulus* (including one in the same year, 1904) are correctly named by Stuart Baker, the difference in size having been overlooked.

586 *Chalcites maculatus* (Gmelin) (Ceylon) Emerald Cuckoo 4 : 162

7 : 2 ♂♂ (1 juv.) 4 ♀♀ 1 o ?

1 Karia Bustee, 4000', Darjeeling ; 1 Goalpara, 1 Cachar, 2 Dibrugarh, Assam ; 1 Teresa, Nicobars ; 1 Bangkok, Siam.

The wings are 102-108 against 105-114 in the FAUNA, repeated in IND. HANDBOOK.



Only one ♂ from Karia Bustee, Darjeeling, is in adult plumage, with the neck and upperbreast as green as the back. The collector Rev. N. A. Fuller had obtained birds both in Darjeeling and in the Palnis, and the latter name was wrongly added on to the label, leading to its being quoted of this origin in IND. HANDBOOK (3 : 222). The other ♂ has the green on the upper parts mixed with coppery, the front half of the head barred black and the similar markings on the underparts extending up to the chin.

In my Nicobar paper (*JBNHS* 64 : 171) I have referred to the female from Teressa having its upperparts green as in Emerald Dove but turning coppery in 3 days. The juvenile, bred from an egg taken in the nest of *Aethopygia seheriae* by Stuart Baker, does not agree with his description in the FAUNA, not being barred above and with no elongate marks on the head. The underparts are completely barred black and white with the breast and chin washed with rufous. The females are all similarly marked below (3 without rufous wash) and show a varying amount of emerald green on the upper parts.

The Teressa ♀ resembles the sub-adult ♂ in having traces of barring on the forecrown. The plumages do not appear to be understood.

The unsexed specimen has a rufous wash over the head, chin, and upperbreast, which appears to be a juvenile character, showing in two of the females.

587 *Chalcites xanthorhynchus* (Horsfield) (Nepal) Violet Cuckoo  
1 ♂ Cachar. Wing 104 (95-105), tail 73 (64-72). 4 : 165

588 *Surniculus lugubris dicruroides* (Hodgson) (Mountains of Nepal)  
Indian Drongo-Cuckoo 4 : 165

16 : 5 ♂♂ (1 juv.) 10 ♀♀ 1 o ?

2 Simla Hills ; 1 Powai Lake, 1 Trombay, 1 Thana, Bombay ; 1 N. Kanara ;  
1 Kurseong ; 1 Goalpara, 4 Dibrugarh, 1 Cachar, 1 Lakhimpur, 1 Laitkensew,  
Khasia Hills, Assam ; 1 *Toungoo, Burma.*

The males have wings 137, 142(2), 144 and tails 137, 143, 157 which are slightly larger than in the females 129-146 av. 135 and 117-157 av. 132 (IH♂♀ wing 135-148; tail 128-152). Three from the Bombay area in which the tails are perhaps more distinctly forked (fully grown?) have them 148, 157, and 158, which is appreciably longer than in the others. The white spot on the nape is visible in one male and eight females. The juvenile male from Dibrugarh (8th August) has small white spots on the head and underparts and also a few on the wing coverts. These spots are not terminal as stated in FAUNA and IND. HANDBOOK.

589 *Surniculus lugubris stewarti* Baker (Ceylon) Ceylon Drongo-Cuckoo 4 : 166

1 ♂ Maha Oya, Ceylon

Wing 130 ; bill 18 ; tail 135

[ 184 ]



590 **Eudynamys scolopacea scolopacea** (Linnaeus) (Malabar) Indian Koel 4 : 172

45 : 20 ♂♂ (7 juv.) 24 ♀♀ (1 pull., 3 juv.) 1 o ?(albino)

1 Kalka, Simla Hills ; 2 Nawashahr, Jullundur ; 1 Deesa, Palanpur, 2 Kutch, 2 Gir Forest, 1 Tapkeshwari, Bhuj, 1 Bulsar ; 1 Madmeshwar, 1 Nasik, 1 Thana, 7 Bombay, 1 Rewas, Kolaba, 1 Panchgani, 1 Ratnagiri ; 1 Bhatkal, North Kanara ; 1 Balgod, 1 Kugwe, 1 Murgi-Metta, 3 Sorab, Sagar, 1 Bangalore, Mysore ; 1 Seshachalam Hills, 1 Palkonda Hills ; 1 Cassimode, S.I. ; 2 Baghownie, 1 Darbhanga, Bihar ; 2 Benares ; 1 Raipur, Dehra Dun ; 1 Thankot, 2 Hathiban, Nepal ; 2 Latiguri, Jalpaiguri.

Measurements are under serial 592.

♂ No. 18730 (Kalka, NW. Himalayas, 23 August 1924) with both wing and tail not fully grown, has dark head, chin, and upper breast, the rest of the underparts being barred as in adult ♀. The upper parts are not so prominently marked with white and the bars on the tail are rufous.

No ♂ pullet is available but there is a subadult plumage in which the upperparts, wing and tail are brown and not glossy black, 6 such ♂♂ are dated February, April, June, July, August, and October (2) the earlier birds perhaps from eggs laid in the nest of the Jungle Crow. No. 21814 (23 Feb., Mysore) has white tips to the primary coverts, white bars on the inner webs of the primaries, and traces of barring on the two pairs of outer tail feathers.

591 **Eudynamys scolopacea malayana** Cabanis & Heine (Sunda Islands and Sumatra) Malay Koel 4 : 174

7 : 4 ♂♂ (1 juv.) 3 ♀♀

3 Dibrugarh, Assam ; 1 Sandoway, 2 Prome Dist. ; 1 Upper Burma.

Measurements are under serial 592.

The juvenile ♂ (28th July, Dibrugarh) which does not have a fully grown tail resembles those of the nominate race having the wing coverts and primaries tipped with white.

592 **Eudynamys scolopacea dolosa** Ripley (Barren Island, Andamans) Andaman Koel

5 : 2 ♂♂ 3 ♀♀

1 Port Blair, 1 Humphryganj, 1 South Andaman ; 1 Nancowry, Central Nicobar, 1 Great Nicobar.

IND. HANDBOOK (3 : 230) errs in quoting my measurements of the bill (JBNHS 64 : 171) as '27-34 from skull' for these measurements are from the feathers of the forehead.

<i>E. s. scolopacea</i>	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
12 adult ♂♂	183-203 av. 194 [IH 182-205]	28-31 av. 28·7 (28-31)	29-32 av. 31 32-35	169-205 av. 184 186-205]
20 adult ♀♀	174-203 av. 187 [IH 179-203]	27-29 av. 28 (28-31)	29-32 av. 29 31-35	168-197 av. 178 171-189] [ 185 ]

*E. s. malayana*

3 ♂♂	199, 205, 206	31(2), 32	33(2), 34	180, 181, 190
3 ♀♀	198, 200, 206	30(2), 31	33, 35(2)	145, 175, 188
	(IH ♂♀ 190-221)	32-34	35-37	181-203)

*E. s. dolosa*

2 ♂♂	209, 224	32, 33	31, 33	201- 213
	(IH 203-235	—	—	189-221)
3 ♀♀	192, 200, 209	31, 32 (2)	32(2), 33	178, 183, 199
	(IH 201-216	—	—	184-197)

**593 *Rhopodytes tristis tristis* (Lesson) (Sumatra ~~errone~~=Bengal) Large Greenbilled Malkoha** 4 : 178

20 : 10 ♂♂ (4 juv.) 7 ♀♀ (3 juv.) 3 o ?

1 Bhopalpatnam, 1 Kotamsar, Bastar Dt. ; 1 Bamra, 1 Hazaria, Pattargatta ; 1 Longview T.E., Darjeeling ; 1 Sikkim ; 1 Bankulwa, Morang, 1 Sagang, Nepal ; 2 Goalpara, 2 Roopchena, Cachar, 1 Golaghat, 1 Dibrugarh, 1 Buxa, 1 Abor Country, Assam ; 1 *Nkang*, 1 *Kani*, 1 *Moungkan*, *E. Bank*, *L. Chindwin*, 1 *Dimlo*, *Chin Hills*, *Burma*.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
6 ♂♂	162-172 av. 167	32-33 av. 32	41-42 av. 41	312-394 av. 367
4 ♀♀	162, 162, 165, 173	31, 32, 33	40, 41, 43, 44	326, 344, 354

According to IND. HANDBOOK the fledgling is like the adult but the juvenile undescribed. Some birds have a few of the wing- and tail-quills brown without any gloss, as in the juvenile *Eudynamys scolopacea* referred to above, and no doubt represent the same phase.

Though some of the specimens are from the accepted range of *R. t. saliens* Mayr, I am unable to separate them. The 3 from continental India (2 Bastar, 1 Orissa) are not unlike *R. t. longicaudatus* (Blyth) from Southern Burma.

IND. HANDBOOK (3 : 234) holds that *R. tristis* differs from *R. viridirostris* (Jerdon) in not having the feathers of the chin and throat bifurcate. The specimens of *tristis* show this character very distinctly and their range in peninsular India appears to be clearly divided, suggesting a subspecific and not specific difference.

**594 *Rhopodytes tristis saliens* Mayr (Chapa, Tonkin) Burma Large Greenbilled Malkoha**  
nil.

**EL *Rhopodytes tristis longicaudatus* (Blyth) (Moulmein) Large Malay Greenbilled Malkoha** 4 : 179

4 : 3 ♀♀ 1 o ?

1 *Taunggyi*, *S. Shan States*, 1 *Sadon Chaung*, *Thayetmyo* ; 1 *Sandoway* ; 1 *Ateran*, *Burma*.

These birds differ from nominate *tristis* in their greyer throats and breasts which lack the ochraceous wash.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
3 ♀♀	158, 160, 173	30, 31, 32	40, 41, 42	354, 365

[ 186 ]

595 **Rhopodytes viridirostris** (Jerdon) (Bottom of the Coonoor Pass)  
Small Greenbilled Malkoha 4 : 177

15 : 10 ♂♂ (2 juv.) 4 ♀♀ (1 juv.) 1 o ?

1 Karwar, 3 North Kanara ; 2 Palni Foothills, 1 Kowenuth, Travancore ;  
1 Jamestown, Kanyakumari Dt., 1 Thirthamalai, 2 Chetteri Range, Salem Dt. ;  
1 Palkonda Hills, Cuddapah ; 1 Nallamalai Hills, South Kurnool, 1 Bhusand-  
pur, Chilka Lake, 1 Daspalla, Orissa.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
8 ♂♂	130-142 av. 134.5	27-29 av. 28	32-35 av. 33.7	214-246 av. 226.6
	[IH 131-143	(c. 27-29)	32-36	202-246]
3 ♀♀	132(2), 136	28(3)	34, 35(2)	228-229, 245
	[IH 129-140	(c. 27-29)	32-34	218-240]

The three juveniles obtained in May (2) and June do not have gloss, on the upper parts and, as in the Koel and *Rhopodytes tristis*, have brown feathers in the wing and tail.

EL **Rhamphococcyx curvirostris erythrognathus** (Bonaparte) (Sumatra)  
Malay Chestnut-breasted Malkoha 4 : 181

2 : 1 ♂ 1 o ?

1 Bankachon, South Tenasserim, 1 Thitkado, Burma.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
	168, 170	42	42, 43	270, 276
	(158-177	39-42	41-42	239-270)

The specimen from Thitkado was collected by Sálím Ali in 1920 and has been lying under the name of *Rhopodytes sumatranus* Raffles.

596 **Taccocua leschenaultii sirkee** (J. E. Gray) (Cawnpore) Western  
Sirkeer Cuckoo 4 : 187

9 : 4 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀ 1 o ?

1 Chandigarh, 1 Jagadhri ; 1 Meerut ; 3 Delhi ; 2 Gwalior, C.I. ; 1 Baghowni,  
Bihar.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	157-164 av. 157	c. 26	41-44	236-259 av. 245
	[IH (once 148) 153-168]	(24-26)	—	—

597 **Taccocua leschenaultii infuscata** Blyth (Sub-Himalayan region ;  
type from near Darjeeling) Eastern Sirkeer Cuckoo 4 : 187

9 : 4 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀ 1 o ?

1 Sonawani, Balaghat Div., 2 Bastar, M.P. ; 1 Daspalla, 1 Nilgiri, 1 Keonjhar  
1 Mahendragiri, 1 Bonai, Orissa ; 1 no data.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	147-157 av. 152.7	26-27	40-42	236-2 63
	(IH 148-167	from skull 31-35	—	—)

These birds some of them so marked by Sálím Ali are listed under *infuscata* following the arrangement in IND. HANDBOOK, but the identity of *affinis*, as also of *infuscata*, is not very clear. None of the speci-

mens have the large 165 mm. wing referred to in the original description of *infuscata*, and again by Whistler (*JBNHS* 37 : 527) when he recorded a specimen from Sankrametta in the Eastern Ghats (wing 153.5 ; tail 233) as *affinis* and referred to its being smaller than *infuscata* from the Eastern Terai. He also suggested that the wing measurements in FAUNA 153-186 were in error for 153-168.

Blyth (*JASB* 1846, p. 19), describing *affinis* from Rajmahal and Monghyr Hills, stated that the tibial plumes are brownish and concolorous with the back, and not rufous as in all the others. This character does not show in any of the specimens available.

In the absence of topotypical or any northern *infuscata* with large wings, it was not possible to express any opinion, and I borrowed from the American Museum of Natural History their specimen No. 462156, a ♂ collected at Amlekhganj, Nepal, on 7 March, 1947, by Koelz, which is generally accepted as *infuscata*. This specimen (wing 156 ; bill 26 ; tarsus 40 ; tail 201) generally resembles in size and colour the series from eastern M.P. and Orissa and, if supported by a matching series, could well be separated by the greyer upperparts, the paler rufous on the belly, and a more clearly distinct grey on the throat, neck, and upper breast, in which there is no trace of rufous.

There is suggestive evidence that some birds from the north have their wings 164 mm. and larger, and it is possible that in the hills a larger form is present to which the name *infuscata* would apply. If so, we would still have to determine how to classify (i) the smaller bird from Nepal, (ii) the rufouswashed specimens listed above, and (iii) the existence or otherwise of *affinis* as described.

598 **Taccocua leschenaultii leschenaultii** Lesson (Madras) Southern Sirkeer Cuckoo 4 : 185

9 : 4♂♂ 4 ♀♀ 1 o ?

1 Mehsana, 1 Nadiad, 1 Surat Dangs, Gujerat ; 1 Bhopal C.I. ; 1 Kumili, High Range, Kerala ; 3 Palni Foothills ; 1 Seshachalam, S. Cuddapah.

The birds from Gujerat are slightly paler on the upper parts, and have less grey on the throat and upperbreast, but with the material available Koelz's *vantyni* (1954, *Contrib., Inst. Regional Exploration* 1, p. 24) does not appear worth separating.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
♂♀	150-160 av. 156	26	39-42	235-261 av. 245

Three from the Palni Foothills (2 ♀♀ 1 o ?) are darker above and below and show more grey on the throat than the others, showing a tendency towards *infuscata*/*affinis* (q.v.). They are also smaller :

Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
138, 148	25, 26(2)	36, 38(2)	215(2), 225

599 *Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus* (Pennant) (Ceylon) Redfaced Malkoha 4 : 182

2 : 1 ♂ 1 ♀

1 Balangoda, 1 Rygamkorale, Ceylon.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
1 ♂	148	35	33	261
1 ♀	151	36	32	265

600 *Centropus sinensis sinensis* (Stephens) [Ning Po (now Ninghsien), China] Common Crow-Pheasant or Coucal 4 : 189

10 : 2 ♂♂ (1 juv.) 5 ♀♀ (2 juv.) 3 o ? (2 juv., 1 pull.)

1 Jagadhri, Ambala, 1 Bahawalpur State; 1 Keoladeo, Bharatpur; 1 Okhla Delhi; 1 Meerut, 1 Bhimtal, Kumaon, U.P.; 3 Baghowni, Darbhanga, Bihar; 1 Nepal.

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
4 adults 1 ♂	212	62	245
3 ♀♀	223, 233, 237	62, 64, 65	272, 275, 287
(1H ♂♀ 205-232, one 239, one 242)		58-66	220-262)

I have recently had occasion to examine at the Zoological Survey of Pakistan, Karachi, a series of specimens from East and West Pakistan. Though they show no differences in colour, their measurements are almost exclusive :

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
Western ♂♂ (11)	210-235 av. 220	53, 58, 60(2)	250, 260(2), 289, 296
Western ♀♀ (7)	206-235 av. 222	55(2), 58	285, 290(2)
Eastern ♂♂ (7)	196-212 av. 204	50-64 av. 56.5	233-262 av. 241
Eastern ♀♀ (4)	200-208 av. 206	49, 55, 57	230-262 av. 244.5

The 18 western birds are, from Mirpur Sakru, Sangar, Thatta, Kotri, and Karachi, all in Sind. The 13 including 2 unsexed eastern birds were obtained west (1 Gopalpur, 1 Rajshahi, 1 Mohanganj, 3 Dinajpur, 1 Gailabanda, Rangpur) and east or south (2 Sylhet; 2 Dohazari, 1 Harbans, Chittagong; 1 Cox's Bazar) of the Brahmaputra and show no differences in size or colour. None show any degree of duskiness.

La Touche in HANDBOOK OF BIRDS OF EASTERN CHINA refers to nominate *sinensis* extending into South Yunnan, while Peter's CHECKLIST (4 : 70) states that birds from Manipur, Assam, south of the Brahmaputra, are the same. In IND. HANDBOOK (3 : 243) both the places are attributed to *intermedius*. Biswas's measurements from Nepal (loc. cit.), 5 ♂♀ : wing 193-210, tail 222-245, are smaller than of western birds and agree with those from further east and south, i.e. *intermedius*, of which the type localities were originally Dhoon, Dacca, and Thayetmyo, later restricted by Stresemann in 1913 (NOV. ZOOL. 20 : 322) to Thayetmyo. The restriction was accepted by Stuart Baker (4 : 192) but is ignored in IND. HANDBOOK. If *intermedius* is accepted from Nepal, there would be two popu-



lations of nominate *sinensis* occurring in two distant areas separated by *intermedius*. Blanford (FAUNA 3: 241) presumably with access to topotypical material held there was no difference between *sinensis* and *intermedius* and accepted Hume's *maximus* as the larger form from Sind and northern India. Pending an opportunity to examine material from China, I am grouping them largely in accordance with the distribution in IND. HANDBOOK. If *maximus* is accepted, I suggest that Hume's type locality, 'Sindh and Sikim', be restricted to Sind. The species is not mentioned in Sâlim Ali's BIRDS OF SIKKIM, and Hume's reference may be to another place.

Smith's *Centropus fasciatus* (JASB 1841, p. 658/9) from Gorrukpur is no doubt based on a barred juvenile of this species.

601 *Centropus sinensis intermedius* (Hume) (Thayetmyo) East Pakistan Crow-Pheasant 4: 192

4: 3 ♂♂ (2 juv.) 1 ♀ juv.

1 Goalpara, Assam; 1 North Shan States; 1 Thayetmyo, 1 Promé District, Burma.

	Wing	Tarsus	Tail
1 adult ♂	193	55	225

Both *intermedius* and *sinensis* differ from *parroti* in the adults having a purple and not greenish gloss, and in the young being barred.

See also remarks under 600.

602 *Centropus sinensis parroti* Stresemann (Ceylon) Southern Crow-Pheasant 4: 192

40: 16 ♂♂ (1 juv.) 21 ♀♀ 3 o?

1 Ambala, Punjab\*; 1 Delhi\*; 1 Saitanwara, Gwalior; 1 Chadav, Bhuj, Kutch, 2 Pimpri, Surat Dangs; 1 Kymore, M.P.; 2 Nasik, 1 Kalyan, 2 Thana, 3 Bombay, 3 Khandala, Maharashtra; 1 Castle Rock, 1 North Kanara, 3 Hosur, 2 Sagar, Mysore; 1 Kodaikanal, 1 Billigirirangan Hills, 1 Edanad, 1 Madura, 2 Chitteri Range, Salem; 1 Palkonda, 2 Nellore, 1 Koduru, South Cuddapah Dt., A.P.; 2 Bastar, 1 Barkot, 1 Keonjargarh, 1 Badrama, Orissa.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
15 ♂♂	180-200 av. 190.6	34-39 av. 36	50-57 av. 53.2	233-284 av. 255.6
21 ♀♀	185-209 av. 196	34-38 av. 36	51-57 av. 52.3	224-320 av. 268

In an earlier note (JBNHS 54: 183) I have referred to the young of *sinensis* (*maximus*?) and *intermedius* being barred. Barred young are available from Ambala and Delhi, while adults from the same place have black backs and shorter wings and tarsi, which would make them *parroti*, leaving them in an area presumably also inhabited by nominate *sinensis* (*maximus*?).

Of 18 dusky birds examined, including specimens borrowed from Zoological Survey, only 4 are males. The birds are from Ambala (1), Delhi (1), Kutch (1), Surat (1), Nasik (1), Thana (1), Bombay (2), Madhya [190]

Pradesh (6), Bastar (1), and Orissa (3) the character being found throughout the year, and most pronounced in Bastar and Orissa. The non-dusky birds include 13 males and 10 females.

Except that the duskiness appears to be more frequent in the females, it is not possible to indicate what it signifies.

4 males and 1 female from Mysore show an exceptional amount of green gloss on the upper parts, a character shared only with a specimen from Kerala.

It will be noticed that birds from Ambala and Delhi are included under both *parroti* and *sinensis* (*maximus*). The specimens listed as *parroti* are two females No. 18740 from Delhi and 18739 from Ambala, which have their wings 195 and 198, black backs, and a slight trace of duskiness, all characteristic of this species. Of the two others from Okhla, Delhi (o ? No. 21758) and Ambala (♂ No. 18738) the former is a completely barred juvenile, and the latter has a rufous back and purplish head, though a small 212 mm. wing. Stresemann (*Nov. Zool.* 1933, 20 : 324) when describing *parroti* includes a specimen from Ambala.

The relationships and association of the two or three subspecies meeting around Delhi leave room for an interesting study.

603 **Centropus (sinensis) andamanensis** Beavan (Andaman) Andaman Crow-Pheasant 4 : 193

5 ♀♀

2 Wimberleyganj, 1 Wrightmyo, 1 Long Island, 1 Sipighat, South Andamans.

604 **Centropus chlororhynchus** Blyth (Ceylon) Ceylon Coucal 4 : 193  
nil.

605 **Centropus toulou bengalensis** (Gmelin) (Bengal) Lesser Coucal 4 : 194

12 : 2 ♂♂ (1 ad., 1 subad.) 4 ♀♀ (3 subad., 1 juv.) 6 o ? (1 ad., 2 subad., 2 juv., 1 pull.)

1 Baghowni, 1 Sepaya, Saran, 1 Darbhanga, Bihar ; 2 Goalpara, 1 Surma T. E., Sylhet, 1 Bagho-Bahar, 1 Roopchena, Cachar, 1 Dibrugarh, Assam ; 1\* Ceylon ; 1 Ngawpaw, *Prome Dt.*, Burma ; 1 no data.

	Wing	Bill	Tarsus	Tail
2 ad. (1♂ 1 o ?)	155, 155	24, 26	42, 45	190
5 subad. ♂♀	144-174 av. 160	21-29 av. 22.4	36-44 av. 90	160-195 av. 179.2
4 juv.	147(2), 153, 165 (♂♀ 137-174)	20, 21, 22, 23 22-26	37, 39, 40, 41 36-37	160, 175(2), 193 156-211)

The juveniles differ from the subadults in having one, or more, primaries barred, a character absent in the phase marked subadult. The pullet differs from the juvenile in the almost complete absence of pale shaft streaks to the feathers of the head and upper parts. The few feathers on the back with slight traces of the pale shaft are rufous, banded with black, presenting a barred appearance lacking in all the others.

A similar sequence of several plumages is described for the Philippine Coucal (*Centropus viridis*) by K. C. Parker, *Ibis*, 1957, pp. 518-520. The NEW DICTIONARY OF BIRDS, page 129, shows a colour plate of the African nominate *toulou* in which the streaked plumage is said to indicate a non-breeding and the other a breeding plumage.

Biswas (*JBNHS* 57 : 546) has measured 5 ♂♂ (wing 137-148 ; tail 163-181) and 5 ♀♀ (wing 161-169 ; tail 180-200). The present series contains several unsexed birds which are intermediate in size ; but though the few sexed specimens indicate that the females are larger (wing 153, 164, 165, 174 ; tail 170, 175, 190, 195) than the males (wing 155, 155, tail 190) the measurements are not exclusive.

The bills are black in the two in adult plumage and yellowish horny in the others.

\*Sp. No. 10863 obtained by A. L. Butler in Ceylon (no other data) is presumably the bird referred to by Whistler (*Spolia Zeylanica*, *Av. Survey of Ceylon*, 23: 219) as obtained by Butler from a native dealer in 1896, and not admissible to the Ceylon list.

There is no material from southern India, and I can only draw attention to Whistler's statement (*JBNHS* 37 : 528) that the six specimens in the British Museum said to be from Peermade 'do not belong to the typical race'.

(to be continued)